

JOHN EDWARD PURSER'S

FIRE ESCAPE;

BEING AN EXTRACT FROM

THE REPORT OF

Brig. Gen. J. WATTS de PEYSTER, N. Y. S. M.,

Military Agent of the State of New York.

TO

HIS EXCELLENCY,

HORATIO SEYMOUR.

1st JUNE, 1853, and 27th APRIL, 1854.

TIVOLI, Dutchess Co., N. Y.

Michigan State Pioneer Society.

Serial No. 600-17

Catalogue No.

Received Sept. 17 18 83.

From Gen. de Peyster of
Livoli. N. Y. Gift.

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TIVOLI, 27TH APRIL, 1854.

PURSER'S FIRE ESCAPE.

During the preceding week, there was exhibited to me a most valuable FIRE ESCAPE, which, under certain circumstances, would prove of inestimable benefit to persons in danger of perishing by fire, in buildings whose stairs were destroyed, and all ordinary methods of escape cut off by the flames. Although by no means comparable with the Parisian *Sac-de-Sauvetage*, in a locality, where the windows, accessible to those within, open on a street or large area, which permits its legitimate use—as explained in my Fire Report of 16th August, 1852, Note, pages 124-5, and Text, pages 126-7.—Mr. PURSER'S apparatus can be used with perfect success in the most confined precincts, where, from want of space, the *Sac-de-Sauvetage* could not be successfully resorted to. The numerous certificates, of persons of distinction in England, Ireland, and even this country, bearing such unequivocal testimony to its simplicity and practicability, hereto appended, and to which the reader is referred, render anything but a succinct description and explanation of its operation altogether unnecessary. It may be well to state, however, in this connection, that while it is necessary to scale the window, through which the rescue is to be effected, by means of the *Echelle-a-Crochets*,* in order to hoist and

* "ECHELLE-A CROCHETS—Hooked Folding Ladder. All sorts of ladders for service at fires have been proposed and experimented with from time to time, but no sooner tried than abandoned. This fact is undeniable, that as long as the stairs of a burning building are practicable, they are the best means of ascent. Another is equally so; the simplest ladder, whose use every body understands, is the best pattern. But as stairs are often consumed, and no ordinary ladders fit for use at hand, a well ordered fire train should possess at least one ladder adapted to all circumstances, attached to each engine. The only pattern recognized by the Parisian Fire Department, is that so often alluded to in this report, composed of 2 parts hinged on the middle round, the ends of the standards of the upper half bent by means of steam, so as to form hooks, and strengthened by plates or fillets of iron. To render it susceptible of easier transportation it folds together, and thus is carried under the engine, hooking on behind and fastened in front by means of the chain which secures the bed plate or platform on the truck. When unfolded, its length is about 13 feet, (weight 26 lbs., cost 55 f.=£11.)

PRUSSIAN FOLDING LADDER, an almost fac simile of the Parisian *Echelle-a-Crochets*, made of spruce, in two pieces, folded together, with hooks, at upper end of standards, to catch on or over the lower part of the window casing, by thrusting them through the panes of glass—(how is this accomplished when there are iron bars outside, or wooden or iron shutters, closed and fastened?)—weighing originally, iron work and all, 25 lbs., transported in iron stirrups attached to each engine. (Cost, 5 Prussian thalers, 7 1-2 silver groschen, \$3 71-100.)

The mode of using the Prussian Ladder is far more complicated, and dangerous to the operator, than the Parisian. The fact is, like the Austrian percussion lock, it is complicated and inexpedient, and therefore a German method of producing a simple result, requiring the man, hanging, suspended in mid air, by the Belt Hook, like a *jumping jenny*, to use both hands and feet to accomplish that which, in France, is performed with the hands alone, while the Sapeur-Pompier remains *piec ferme* on the sill, sustained by a comrade inside of the window.

affix thereto the *Sac-de-Sauvetage*,† a proceeding fraught with danger to the intrepid firemen performing it, owing to the shameful insecurity of the walls run up, and fragile constructions tolerated in the cities, towns and villages throughout the United States, the inefficient legislation relating thereto, and the utter disregard of human life daily evinced in our midst, (of which the terrible catastrophe of the 25th inst. in New York, bears such appalling testimony,) Mr. PURSER'S *Escape* requires no such risk or exertion. Be it ever remembered, however, that in numerous instances where human beings, palsied by terror, or enfeebled by the effects of sickness or a variety of other causes, are in danger, the presence, the assistance, the encouragement, of the practiced, cool and energetic firemen, are indispensable; and then, without the *Echelle-a-Crochets*, they could not accomplish the work of mercy—and thus the imperiled fellow creature would perish with the very means of safety almost within his grasp.‡

† SAC-DE-SAUVETAGE—Safety Sack—Fire Escape. It is scarcely conceivable that so simple an arrangement as the subject of this note, can constitute so safe, admirable and easily adjusted a Fire Escape. It is a long bag or hose of stout, coarse, elastic bagging, (*treillis*), weighing 60 lbs., (cost 100 to 120 francs, \$20 to \$24,) ordinarily from 15 to 20 metres, (49 to 66 feet,) in length, (I estimated that, which I saw used, at over 70 feet,) woven so as to permit the free circulation of air, (strengthened when extraordinarily long with light cords,) 55 centimetres (22 inches) diameter, or sufficiently large to allow the passage of a man with his arms slightly akimbo throughout, the mouth rather larger and contrived to present a square opening (to facilitate entry, as it is sometimes necessary for the firemen to force timid or disabled individuals to avail themselves of this means of escape, and thrust them in, neck and heels,) and provided with a strong spar, rope, and straps, to attach it to the window wherever it may be used. The sides of the end are sometimes slit like the cuff of a coat, to afford easier exit.

The Sack is hauled up by means of a cord attached to the ring in the firemen's belt, and secured above, in the following manner: As almost all, if not all, the windows of the Parisian houses are furnished with what is generally known as French or casement sashes, very strongly made, the spar about 6 feet long on the lower jaw of the mouth, is placed under the sash against the jams, and the opening is then distended by drawing a cord over the top of the sash at either side, and securing it to the spar below. A somewhat different method would be necessary in this country, on account of the different arrangement of our sashes and their flimsy construction—whereas, things abroad are made to last. The end of the Sack is held, below, as far as its length will permit, from the building, in order that by giving sufficient inclination, the descent of the persons who are to be saved may not be too rapid.

In order to prevent accidents, no person should attempt to descend before the firemen below give notice that every precaution has been taken, and that they are able to sustain the end of the Escape in the manner prescribed.

The Sack should be used by only one at a time, and invariably entered feet foremost. In fact, no one should be permitted to enter the mouth before the individual preceding is entirely disengaged from the end.

In case the window is so high from the ground that the length of the Sack will not permit a sufficient slope, the lower end is closed by drawing it together by means of a rope passed through rings at intervals around, and the same rope is then held out far enough from the building to afford an easy descent. When the person within reaches the end thus drawn together, the rope is gradually relaxed until the extremity of the Sack rests firmly on the ground and he is let out.

‡ If individuals, ensnared in a burning house, whose stairs are destroyed by the flames, could only preserve their presence of mind and coolness, they would often be enabled of themselves to devise means to escape the danger; but in almost every case the

But, were it even the case of a child—did it possess the slightest powers of mental or physical exertion, Mr. PURSER'S Fire

firemen are obliged to transport themselves near them, to re-assure and direct them how to reach a place of safety. In case the aged, women and children, are in-question, the exertions of the *Sapeurs-pompiers* become indispensable. When the fire has cut off all communication with the second story, the first precaution necessary is to collect together the greatest possible number of mattresses and dispose them under the windows so as to form a bed (CEARD'S *Swiss Mattress-Cushion*,) on which a person could light without injury. Another method would be to extend an awning raised about 1 or 1-2 yards above the ground (*Russian Saving Blanket*) and held up firmly at the four corners and sides to receive those who could summon courage to jump, and break the fall of those who might throw themselves from the windows. When, however, those in danger have taken refuge in the upper stories, recourse must be had to other means of assistance.—Naturally, the first thought is to use ladders, but under most circumstances those at hand are not long enough to scale lofty buildings, while on the other hand the different Fire Escapes invented from time to time, presented so many difficulties, they had to be abandoned, and more simple expedients sought after. These wants and difficulties called forth those admirable inventions, the *Echelle-a-Crochets* and *Sac-de-Sauvetage*, attributed to M. de Plazanet, Commandant of the Parisian Fire Battalion, 1826-1830.

These are the best means of affording assistance known at present, the most successful in practice, and generally used. Their skilful employment is one of the most important of the fireman's duties. I will now endeavor to explain their manœuvres, which present no difficulties in scaling the first and second stories, but if it is requisite to reach those above that height, courage and dexterity are required. Two firemen, under the direction of a Chief, bring the *Echelle a-Crochets* and place it on the ground, hooks turned down, beneath the window they wish to attain. It is then unfolded, presenting double its former length, and rendered firm by a bolt shot out from the lower end of the upper bar or standard, which is hollow, and entered into the upper end of the bar or standard, of the lower half which is also hollow, transforating at the same time the two iron straps or plates, bolted to the standards, which form the hinge, turning upon the middle round.

To mount the first story, the chief (corporal) and the 1st assistant (private) set up and hook the ladder on the balcony or window sill above, after which they climb it like a common ladder, (ascending with great caution to avoid a fracture, as it is necessarily so light that it responds to each movement.) taking care always to grasp the standards and never the rungs. To ascend from the first to the second story, the chief stands erect on the sill of the window, facing outwards, firmly held, by the belt, by the 1st assistant inside, while the 2d assistant outside below, watches attentively his every movement. The chief, perfectly secure in the support of his assistant within, then stoops, lifts, un-hooks and turns the ladder, hooks outwards, then straightens himself up and raises it vertically little by little, shifting his hands one after another on the standards, taking care to keep his eyes fixed on the upper end of the ladder, to maintain its equilibrium.

When the hooks arrive a little above the second story window sill, the 2d assistant, below, cries, TURN! At this notice the chief turns the ladder, hooks in, crossing his arms on his chest, changing hands on the standards, and lowers the ladder gently, until the hooks take firm hold on the balcony or window sill.

Thus I saw them scale five stories in succession, and descend by the same means.—If it became necessary for persons, unacquainted with its use, to avail themselves of this ladder, they would be secured besides with cords, but if sick or disabled individuals, or those overcome with terror, were overtaken by the fire and forced to resort to the Fire Escape, recourse must then be had to the *Sac-de-Sauvetage*.

To demonstrate its uses, the chief and 1st assistant again mounted to the fifth story, by means of the *Echelle-a-Crochets*, the former having the swivel or toggle of the *commande*, a very light but strong cord, at least 60 feet long, hooked in the ring of his waistbelt, of which the other was attached to the small spar or wooden traverse across the opening of the sack, which was then hoisted and established in the following manner: The chief and 1st assistant above, distended the mouth of the sack, placed the ends of the spar under the sashes and window jams, and stretched the opening to its greatest capacity, by means of cords passed over the top of the sashes, brought down and secured to the spar, buckling together an additional strap, attached to the mouth to keep it firm, and prevent its closing unexpectedly. This operation finished, the 2d assistant below took hold of the end of the sack, and, aided by a few firemen (bystanders would

Escape presents to the public an efficacious means of rescue. Having thus endeavored to explain wherein its advantages lie, and at the same time demonstrate that my present views do not conflict with those heretofore set forth with regard to other apparatus, all that remains is to exhibit its details of construction and operation, and add that I conscientiously believe, after a thorough examination of and acquaintance with the foreign appliances of this nature, that its adoption by the different Fire Departments, and general introduction in the hotels and public buildings throughout the United States, will be productive of the most beneficial results, and compensate a hundred fold for the trifling expense involved in its purchase and maintenance. £D †

PURSER'S FIRE ESCAPE possesses some striking features of the Parisian and Prussian *Sacs-de-Sauvetage*, § but, combined

answer equally as well,) carried it as far away from the building as its length permitted, giving it such an inclination that the descent would not be too rapid. This Fire Escape was scarcely established, when several of the firemen came sliding down, one after another, head foremost or feet foremost, one of them holding the child of one of the officers in his arms. This gallant little fellow made several descents, afterward, by himself, and performed many notable feats of jumping, &c.; and a corporal cut a number of capers, stopping himself at different points, simply by bracing out his arms and legs akimbo.

Another means of rescue resorted to, is by lowering persons with ropes, the necessary knots, their capacity and formation being the subject of various articles and plates in the Parisian Fireman's Manual. As all their advantages chiefly depend on the means afforded of securing the upper end; no general rules can be given, but localities must determine the best methods. Suffice it to say, I saw several firemen lowered from the fourth story by a corporal, in what is termed the chair knot, with dispatch and apparent comfort, and afterward he let himself down, simply by taking a turn round the centre-bar of the window, holding the rope in his hand and paying it out gradually." (*Brig. Gen. DE PEYSTER'S Fire Report of 16th August 1852.*"

† To prove my estimate of its value, I have directed Mr. PURSER to furnish one of these ESCAPES and present it through Mr. MATSELL, Chief of Police, to his Department for use at fires in the City of New York, satisfied that its advantages need only be tested in public to ensure its general adoption.—DE P.

§ SAC DE SAUVETAGE (*Safety Sack*)—*Fire Escape Bag*—Instead of the long, loose-woven bag or hose, in use in Paris, the Berlin Contrivance consists of a simple strong hemp bag, (cost 14 thalers, 20 silver grosschen, §10 27—100,) at the opening of which an iron D, or ring is fastened, to keep the mouth properly extended, into which the person or article to be saved is put, and then lowered the same as an ordinary bag would be, bottom first, by firemen who have come to his, her or its, rescue, by means of the *Echelle-a-Crochets*, to which it is ordinary secured, in order to be on hand for immediate use.—The Rescue Rope is 200 feet long, and half an inch in diameter; the Direction Line (*Commande, Fr.*) sent first, is a very strong and firm cord, but much smaller (1 4 in. diam.) The calls and answers are. OPEN, AND PLACE HIM, HER, OR IT, IN!—[*Aufgepaszt!*] READY!—(*Fertig!*) LOWER AWAY!—(*Los!*)

It strikes me this is not to compare with the French invention, introduced by Lieut. Colonel PLAZANET, about 1826. Some years since, JACOB, (Assistant Master Chimney-Sweep,) submitted to the Berlin Municipality, as his invention, the Parisian ECHELLE-A-CROCHETS, SAC-DE-SAUVETAGE, and BELT; already in use at Paris, Milan, (Lombardo Venitian kingdom,) Copenhagen, (Denmark) [where they have an excellent Fire Department with a beautiful uniform—D. A. W———,] and something similar even at Konigsburg, (East Prussia,) and Berlin itself. Indeed, these admirable appliances, suggested 20 years before, had been lost to the public by that apathy which effects everything relative to the Fire Department: *an apathy fostered in this country (U. S.) by fear of awakening the political enmities and energies of so large a body of voters, and the want of justice and selfishness of our Press, unwilling to acknowledge the value of anything not emanating from themselves or their own proteges or political partisans.*

therewith are improvements entirely his own, which entitle him to all the credit of an actual invention. According to his plan, it is applicable both from within and without. As the first, however, depends in a great measure on the second, and the principles of both are nearly identical, the latter deserves the first consideration.

We will suppose that, driven by the flames to attempt an escape by the windows, a group of persons have assembled in the fifth story, invoking assistance from without. A fireman, armed with this *Escape*, which weighs only about 56 pounds,* takes his position beneath the window, and by means of a succession of rods, fitting successively into sockets, like the joints of a fishing rod, raises a light cord attached to the upper end of the first, within reach of the persons in danger. In order to render these rods or joints the lighter and more easily handled, they should be of seasoned pine, the first 6 1-2 feet, second 5 1-2 feet, and so decreasing in length, slightly increased in diameter, each terminating in a copper tube to receive that which succeeds, the upper ones having about one-third from their ends light rollers, to enable them to overcome any inequalities in the face of the building. The cord having been seized by an observer at the window, he can immediately hoist therewith a spar of tough and strong wood, covered with sheet copper to protect it against the action of the flames, chafing, or other damage, attached to whose centre is a strong but light block or pulley, through which is rove a chain of sufficient strength, or a well stretched and proved Manilla rope, 1 1-4 inch in diameter. Having placed this spar athwart the window, with the pulley hanging over the sill, all the preparations above are complete. In case, however, a child only is to be saved, who has not sufficient strength to hoist up the spar and tackle, Mr. PURSER has provided for such a contingency, by sending up in the first place instead of the cord a light grappling iron of peculiar formation, which, raised above the sill, and suffered to fall within the window, will catch upon the window board or frame. Attached to this grappling iron is a diminutive pulley, by means of which the spar can be elevated, and then only requires to be firmly fixed across the opening of the window. Having thus established the spar, *on the principle of a toggle*, all that remains to be done is to send up the bag by means of a three part tackle, the persons place themselves in it, and are lowered in safety.

This bag, almost identical with the Prussian *Sac-de-Sauvetage*, described in Note *, page 205, of my Report of the 1st June, 1853,† is a demi-cylinder of stout No. 1 canvas, about 4 feet in depth and 3x4 in diameter, whose opening is kept extended by means of a stout D or semi-circular frame-work of iron, across

* Cost, not over \$32.

† See Note §, page 6.

which, near the rear, there is a sufficiently heavy iron bar, through whose centre an eye-bolt is securely riveted, and thereto attached a single block, through which the Manilla rope or chain is rove.

This is the whole apparatus, and its operation, by means of which, as set forth in the Report of Mr. CARSON, Chief Engineer of the New York Fire Department, five persons, three men and two boys, were brought down from the fifth story of a house in Mott-street, in 4 minutes and 50 seconds.

For internal use, no spar is necessary, a ring-bolt in the floor beneath the window takes its place, and instead of the bag a neat wooden case, resembling a chest of drawers, may be substituted, which can be used as a receptacle for the tackle when not in use.

The benefits of such an apparatus in our crowded hotels, factories, and other similar localities, are so obvious, that it is needless to dilate any further upon the subject.

NEW YORK AND BROOKLYN CERTIFICATES.

NEW YORK, 15th November, 1851—United States.

I have been present in company with several Assistant Engineers, and witnessed Mr. PURSER operating with his FIRE ESCAPE; when he sent up his apparatus to a top window of a five-story building, in the rear of a house in Mott-street, where a ladder* could not be made available, and brought down five persons in four minutes and fifty seconds, in perfect safety.

(Signed)

ALFRED CARSON,

Chief Engineer.

(Signed)

CORNELIUS ANDERSON, late Chief Engineer;
 WM. CURTIS, Assistant Engineer;
 H. J. OCHERHOUTSEN, Assistant Engineer;
 JOHN BARRY, Assistant Engineer;
 MICHAEL EICHELL, Assistant Engineer.

*Mr. Purser says a ladder only 12 feet in length; not but that an *Echelle-a-Crochets* whose uses and benefits are unknown to New York Firemen, could have rendered efficient service, but an ordinary ladder, as it would have had to be brought through a passage 16 feet long, 4 broad, and only 7 feet high, into a very confined rear area, where it could not have been elevated—Mr. P. adds that a patent was granted for his invention, but adverse circumstances prevented his taking the subsequent steps requisite to entitle him to the rights and secure the protection conferred thereby.

BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL, BROOKLYN, 1st May, 1854.

We, the undersigned Aldermen, Members of the Common Council of the City of Brooklyn, N. York, having seen Mr. John Edward Purser's FIRE ESCAPE in operation, (by request of the Fire Department Committee,) certify to its utility, safety, and expedition in its working, and believe it can be brought into use where other Fire Escapes cannot act at all.

(Signed)

F. G. QUEVEDO, Ald'n 5th Ward.

JOHN J. WHITE, " 8th Ward.

W. W. CAMPBELL, Ald'n.

GEORGE REMSEN.

THOS. MULLIGAN, Ald'n 6th Ward.

ISRAEL D. VELSOR, Chief Engineer of Brooklyn
 Fire Department.

The FIRE DEPARTMENT COMMITTEE, to whom was referred the annexed Communication of JOHN E. PURSER, Esq., in relation to his improved FIRE ESCAPE,

REPORT, That they have examined into the matter mentioned in said communication, and, from a personal examination of the apparatus, and from having seen it in successful operation, your Committee are of opinion that the FIRE ESCAPE of John E. Purser, Esq., is the most simple, economical, and reliable one that they have had the pleasure of witnessing. It would prove of value in saving life to have one made for each Police Station in the City, to be in charge of the Police of the respective Stations, the cost of which will be about \$32.00. All of which is respectfully submitted for the consideration of the Board.

BROOKLIN, April 27th, 1854.

(Signed)

F. G. QUEVEDO,
GEO. REMSEN,
WM. H. CAMPBELL,

} Committee.

Laid on the table, May 1st, 1854.

I certify the above to be a true copy, extracted from the Minutes of the Common Council of the City of Brooklyn. (Signed) JOSEPH HEGEMAN, Clerk.

ENGLISH AND IRISH TESTIMONIALS.

The following persons, who have seen JOHN EDWARD PURSER'S *Fire Escape and Wreck Life Preserver* in operation, have attached their signatures to a document, in order to recommend it for general use—of which this is a copy:—

Lieut. General Lord Downes	Dr. Sadlier, Provost Trinity College, Dublin
Lieut. Gen'l Sir Rich'd Bourke, K.C.B.	The Lord Bishop of Limerick
Lieut. Gen'l Sir Wm. Marbeune, K.C.B.	Capt. Rob't Maunsell, R.N., H. M. sh. Rooney
Admiral R. D. Oliver, of the Red	Capt. Hayes O. Grady, R.N.
Lord Viscount Guillamore	Commander Wolfe, R. N.
Lord Viscount Gort	Commander Beechy, R.N.
The Earl of Clonmell	Lieutenants Rees and Lynch, R. N.
The Earl of Sefton	Master J. S. Taylor, N. N.
Mich'l Furnell, D.L., High Sheriff, [County Limerick	Capt. Jervis, Treasurer Royal-Western Yacht [Club.

and fifty others—Merchants, Clergymen, Barristers, and other Professions.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

From the Cork Examiner.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION AT CORK.—We are happy to notice that *Section G.* yesterday passed a vote of thanks to Mr. PURSER, of Limerick, for his very valuable and simple invention, the FIRE ESCAPE. It is one of the simplest inventions ever exhibited; it can be applied in a moment by the youngest child, and is capable of letting down a person from any height, or giving assistance from the street, and in any situation, and in which no other piece of machinery could be used.

From the Limerick Chronicle.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION.—In *Section G., Mechanical Science*, Mr. PURSER, of this city, received a vote of thanks for his valuable and simple invention, the FIRE ESCAPE. In order to test its efficiency, he descended from an upper window of the Court House. Sir J. McNeill, the Chairman, concluded the business of the *Section*, by congratulating the mechanical gentlemen of Ireland of this meeting of the Association having taken place amongst them.

From the Liverpool Times.

We have seen in operation a FIRE ESCAPE, at the Watch Office, invented by a gentleman of Dublin. It is simply a Fire Escape, and nothing more; but, it is the Fire Escape most wanted. The whole apparatus does not weigh half a hundred; and in the event of a person wanting, in case of a fire, to escape from an upper window, however high, the fire police can in one moment enable him to do so. The great difficulty was to get the apparatus up. This invention completely overcomes that difficulty.

From the Liverpool Albion.

We understand that the Watch Committee have ordered from Mr. JOHN EDWARD PURSER four of his newly-invented FIRE ESCAPES, which are to be kept in constant readiness at the several Lock-up Houses and Police Stations, in cases of fire. Those invented by Mr. Purser are exceedingly simple in construction and operation, and can with ease be made available in those confined situations, where other Fire Escapes could not be used.

From the Liverpool Mail.

NEW FIRE ESCAPE.—On Monday last, a machine was exhibited to the Watch Committee, the authorities of Birkenhead, and several gentlemen of the Press, for facilitating the means of escape in cases of fire—the invention of Mr. PURSER. The construction of it is simple, yet very ingenious and effective—the whole apparatus, we believe, not weighing more than 56 lbs. The facility with which it was brought into operation, and the ease with which it was afterwards worked, elicited expressions of admiration and satisfaction from all who have witnessed it. We may rank this as one of the best inventions of the present day, and have no doubt that ere long, when it becomes publicly known, it will be brought into general use, particularly in all large towns, where fires are of frequent occurrence; often involving serious loss of life. We earnestly recommend it to the attention not only of all public bodies, but private individuals—it being very compact, and capable of being brought into a very small compass.

From the "Watch Committee," of Birkenhead (opposite Liverpool).

SIR:—I am directed by the Lightening and Watch Committee to intimate that, highly approving of your FIRE ESCAPE, they have agreed to purchase one for the sum of £5 10 (about \$27 50), to be delivered at your earliest convenience, to their Superintendent, at his office.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed)

WM. GREGORY, Secretary.

From the Earl of Sefton, Croxteth Park, near Liverpool.

SIR:—The FIRE ESCAPE seems a handy thing, and well contrived and executed. It is a most requisite article to have about a large house, though it may never be wanted. But it is simple, and easily stowed away. I shall have it occasionally inspected when the fire engine is worked.

(Signed)

Yours, &c.

SEFTON.

From Lieut. General Lord Downs, Burt House, Kilmore County, Ireland.

SIR:—I think that the FIRE ESCAPE is a very desirable apparatus to have in a large dwelling house, and I beg you will send me one by the bearer who will pay you for it.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed)

DOWNES.

From the Superintendent of the Liverpool Fire Brigade.

SIR:—In compliance with your wish, I have carefully examined your invention, testing it in several ways, and consider it the best and easiest worked of the many FIRE ESCAPES that have come under my notice; and can recommend it as an invention which combines great facility, safety and expedition in its working; and that it can be brought into use in cases of fire, where other Fire Escapes could not act at all.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

(Signed)

J. HEWITT,

Superintendent of Fire Brigade, Liverpool.

7th August, 1847.

☞ Since the above was written, the Superintendents of the London, Manchester, and Dublin Fire Brigades, have seen it, and concur in the same opinion.

From the Proprietor of the Stork Hotel, Liverpool.

SIR:—I was much pleased yesterday in noticing a most easy descent in one of your simple but very effective FIRE ESCAPES; and finding the price to be moderate, would wish you to send me one at your earliest convenience, and oblige

Your obedient servant,

Stork Hotel, Liverpool, 17th November, 1847.

(Signed)

E. B. THOMAS.

☞ Mr. PURSER having obtained permission from the Royal Dublin Society to exhibit his FIRE ESCAPE before the authorities of that city at their Institution, and having done so, he states and is prepared to exhibit vouchers that he received a large number of orders and testimonials from various public bodies, hotel keepers, and other individuals, viz: 7 for external application, and 6 internal, i. e. to be kept in houses.

From the Proprietor of Radley's Hotel, Dublin.

SIR:—I shall feel obliged by your sending me one of your improved FIRE ESCAPES, for the use of my hotel, as I am fully satisfied (from seeing it exhibited) of the great advantage of possessing means of saving life. Enclose a bill and receipt, and oblige,
Yours, respectfully, (Signed) JOHN RADLEY.

From the Proprietor of the Victoria Foundry, Church Warden, St. Mary's Parish.

SIR:—Having been present at your exhibition of your FIRE ESCAPE, before the Royal Dublin Society, on Saturday last, and having considered the simplicity, efficiency and expedition of its application, I have no hesitation in saying it is the best and simplest contrivance for the purpose that has as yet come to my knowledge; and, as Church Warden of St. Mary's Parish, I request you will be pleased to send me one of them as speedily as possible.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed)

JOHN MALLETT, Civil Engineer.

31st August, 1847, Dublin, Victoria Foundry, Ryden Row.

COPY of the ORDER of the DUBLIN PIPE WATER COMMITTEE.

CITY ASSEMBLY HOUSE, DUBLIN, 18th Sept., 1847.

SIR:—I am directed by the Lord Mayor and Pipe Water Committee, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th; and, in reply, to state that two Fire Escapes, similar to that the Lord Mayor and Ald'n Gavin witnessed the working of on the 20th ult., be forwarded to Mr. Crofton, Store Keeper, Barrack-street, Dublin.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed)

D. J. WILKINSON, Secretary.

Mr. JOHN EDW. PURSER, Liverpool.

STATE OF NEW YORK, } SS:
County of Kings.

I, JOHN EDWARD PURSER, do solemnly swear that the accompanying documents are true copies of the originals that I have received from the individuals whose names are attached thereto—the originals of which are now in my possession—and also the copies of the statements of the Press relative to the merit of my invention as a FIRE ESCAPE.

(Signed)

JOHN EDWARD PURSER.

Sworn before me, this 5th day of May, 1854.

(Signed) PETER R. HEGEMAN, Com'r of Deeds.

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